

3.1.2.3 Individual Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need Summaries

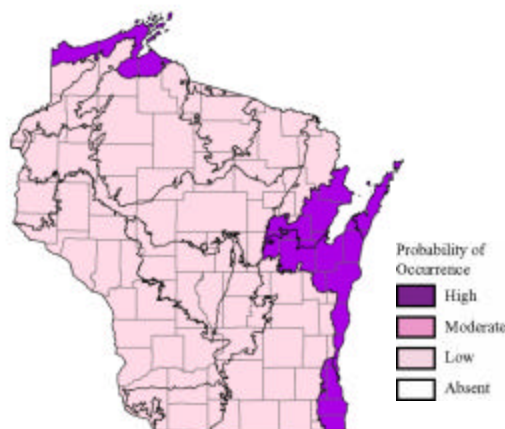
Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	NA
State threats:	2
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	3
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.5**
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.

** Based on fewer than the standard 7 criteria.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Inland lakes
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Central Sand Hills	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Sand Hills	Inland lakes
Central Sand Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Forest Transition	Impoundments/Reservoirs
North Central Forest	Impoundments/Reservoirs
North Central Forest	Inland lakes
North Central Forest	Lake Superior
Northern Highland	Inland lakes
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Inland lakes
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Northwest Sands	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Inland lakes
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Lake Michigan
Superior Coastal Plain	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Superior Coastal Plain	Inland lakes
Superior Coastal Plain	Lake Superior

Threats and Issues

- Horned Grebes are a migrant found on Lake Michigan and on larger inland lakes. They feed on crustaceans, fish, and arthropods and are going to benefit from healthy aquatic ecosystems. It is currently unclear what is limiting this species' population in Wisconsin.
- Loss of habitat on the breeding grounds in the northwest part of the state seems to be a serious concern.
- Exposure to lead and organohalogenes on the breeding grounds and in migration/winter is a possible threat.
- Horned grebes are sensitive to pollution from agricultural chemicals in summer and in winter. More study is needed to determine if this is an issue during migration.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Maintain high quality open water wetlands by mitigating impacts of invasive species and nutrient loading from runoff.
- Study is needed to determine what impact ecological changes on the Great Lakes may be having on the continental population.
- More research is necessary to determine what factors are limiting the population of this species in Wisconsin